



DIRECTIONS

From the intersection of Route 275 and Route 32, go west on Route 275 for .25 miles; parking is on right at Eagleville Dam before the bridge.

Suggested Park Activities

-  Hiking
-  Picnicking
-  Fishing
-  Canoeing

Prohibited Park Activities

Unleashed Dogs
Mountain / Motor Biking
Camping / Camp Fires
Horseback Riding
Walking on the Agricultural Field



**Mansfield
Parks &
Recreation**

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www.mansfieldct.org/parksandpreserves/
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*For up-to-date trail information or to download maps
click on www.mansfieldct.org/trailguides/*

Eagleville Preserve

Mansfield, CT

Eagleville Preserve contains an 11-acre wooded area along the Willimantic River. It is bordered on its northern edge by 9.1 acres of woods belonging to the Ct DEP. The eastern part of the preserve contains 10 acres of agricultural land leased to a local farmer and a community garden site. The preserve is on a level terrace of sand and gravel deposited by a melting glacier 15,000 years ago.



trail guide

There are 0.98 miles of hiking trails within the DEP and Town boundaries.
The trails are blazed in white and wind through the following points of interest:

1. **The Eagleville Mill** - The mill was built next to the dam and was originally powered by water. This area south of 275 was cleared to store raw materials. Cotton fabric was produced here from 1814 to 1931, and then shoe lasts were made until the mill was demolished in the 1950s.

2. **Old Mill Race** - Water was diverted from Eagleville Pond into a canal (race) that flowed under the mill's waterwheel, then under Rt. 275. This footbridge crosses the lower race that returned water to the river. Now this section is a quiet backwater filled with forget-me-nots.

3. **Invasives** - Because this area was cleared by the former mill, the DEP portion of the preserve is heavily infested with non-native invasive species. The moist soil encourages abundant growth of bittersweet, multiflora rose, winged euonymus (burning bush), barberry, and garlic mustard which are choking out native trees and shrubs.
4. **Diverse Waterways** - Here both the mill race (canal) and Willimantic River are visible. Note the differences in vegetation along the banks of each waterway. Although the standing water in the canal is less appealing than the free flowing waters of the river, this canal provides food and shelter for organisms that the river cannot support, increasing the diversity of wildlife found in this preserve.
5. **Native Woods** - After the trail climbs onto the dry terrace, take note of the changed understory vegetation. Native plants are able to compete with invasives more successfully in these dry, shady woods. Volunteer stewards and Town staff monitor this area for infestations of invasive plants. Early detection and response are key in effectively managing invasive species.
6. **Agricultural Field** - As the trail turns to the east, note the large clearing beyond the woods edge. This field (no public access) contains prime agriculture soil and is leased to a local farmer by the Town.
7. **Wetland Bridge** - As the trail turns west near the Dunham Pond Brook, this bridge allows easy passage over a wetland area filled with ferns. Here the grey dogwood swamp drains into the brook.
8. **Flood Plains** - When approaching the inviting bench take a look across the river. Note the steep slope of the opposing river bank in comparison to the level flood plain on this side of the river. The water-tolerant plant life found on this side of the river is a sign of a flooding area compared to the upland hardwoods and laurel shrubs found across the river.
9. **Vernal Pools** - Although vernal pools contain water only seasonally, their importance to the ecosystem is vital. The late summer drying up of these pools prevents the resident salamanders' and frogs' predators (fish) from coexisting, allowing their eggs to safely reach maturity.
10. **Willimantic River** - Take a moment to enjoy the views of the river. Fallen trees lying in the river provide habitat for many fish and other aquatic life. [Click on www.willimanticriver.org](http://www.willimanticriver.org) for detailed information.
11. **Beaver Activity** - This bench and the others you see along the trail were constructed by the Boy Scouts of Mansfield and signify the importance of volunteer and community work in establishing and maintaining Mansfield's parks and preserves. Near this bench, look for signs of beavers that chewed bark off large oaks and toppled small trees, leaving pointed stumps.

